

Leicester, Mass. March 5,
1855.

Dear friend Webb.

An unusual period of silence has been observed between us - long enough to satisfy the most rigid Quaker; - quite unintentional, & without design on my part. I am in your debt for a letter, yours of Jan. 14th lying before me, to which (or the half of it) I am sending back to you, for the money - account upon it. With it, as you will see, I send a memorandum, the joint-work of Wallcut & myself. I believe all is plain-sailing -

The sole reason that I have not written to you is, absolutely, the want of time. I have had a very hard winter's work - it has been a very trying winter, - from the middle of January, for a ~~week~~ month onward, I was in a very miserable state of health, the effects of a violent & general cold which I had taken, - and when an occasional leisure hour came, I found myself exhausted & spiritless. Then, what time I could snatch for my foreign correspondents, seemed to be first & ~~most~~ chiefly due to Pillsbury & Miss Estlin, who have (the latter especially) kept me - & thro' me the rest of our friends, - most thoroughly, faithfully, & promptly informed on all the many points growing out of the London Conference. By the steamer of last week,

I wrote a full letter to Pillsbury - with a few lines to Miss E. - By that of the week before, a letter to Mr. & Miss E. - with some shorter business notes. -

I have this day rec'd. Miss E.'s letter of Feb. 16., with enclosure. It puts a different feature, to some extent, on the ^{subject} ~~fact~~ of G.T.'s "mythical speech". It seems it is not all a myth - Mr. James, ^{Mr. Mathews,} and Mr. Moore of Manchester, testify to hearing a speech from him, embracing some of the topics & language, and particularly something eulogistic of the American A.S. Socy.; but from their testimony ~~exacted~~, it appears not to have been a very remarkable speech; indeed Mr. James declare, there was nothing in it which he should term "glowing". That such a speech, as the "Empire" put forth in January, was actually made by G.T. in the Londⁿ. Conf^e, I must say, with the evidence before me, I cannot believe. Yet, after all abatements which may justly be made from it, it does ~~not~~ appear to me quite strange that neither Mrs. Pillsbury nor Bishop heard anything of it. Both of them must have had their attention very much sharpened to all that Thompson should say or do, that day. That, being present, they totally lost a "glowing tribute" to the Amⁿ. Socy. from his mouth

is too hard to be believed; but why they
should, both, have so entirely lost what he
did say - for it is clear he did say something
in behalf of the Am. A. S. Society - is also very
hard to be accounted for. — Mr. James',

& Mr. Moore's testimony, — & the opinion
which Mr. & Miss Estlin now entertain (so far
as I can learn^{it}) — seem to bear out, I harmonize
with, the ~~of~~ Conclusion to which I had come,
& which I gave in my letter to Miss E. 2 weeks
since, & to Pillsbury last week, — which was, that
G. T. had ~~perhaps confounded, & certainly~~ incorporated
into one speech a collection of ideas and
sentiments which he had uttered during the day,
to one & another, some of them in private and
in Committee only, others in public & to the
Conference; that he had ^{probably} ~~perhaps~~ confounded
the times & occasions, & after that lapse of time
could not exactly distinguish the times which
separated the public, from the more private
remarks. — Since receiving ^{Miss E.'s letter.} & weighing its varying
testimony, I am inclined to blame G. T. less than
before. I see no evidence of intentional desertion
of the American Society, its principles, & its friends.

But I do see a weak compliance with a
maneuvering, New Broad St, policy, quite
unworthy of a mind like G. T.'s, and which I
do not believe he would ever have consented to, for
a moment, or looked at a second time, if he had
not been under some obligations to Sturge & his
party.

G. T.'s failure to keep his engagement
with Bishop James, Pillsbury, &c. before the opening
of the Conference, is greatly against him; and his
whole treatment of Pillsbury appears to have been
small and ungenerous. - I fear his poverty,
not his will, ^{but} had ~~led~~ him in some degree into
the power of Jas. Sturge, and that now as well as
in Nov. last, he was acting and talking in fetter
Alas, for him. I doubt not, he suffers in his thos.

I sent to you, last week, thro' Miss Estlin
the Bill of Lading upon a box of Tracts, Pamphlets, &
Bazaar Reports, addressed to you, & shipped by E. Train
& Co's Packet Ship "Star of Empire". The 28th Feb. w.
her regular day of sailing; but she was to be delayed
several days. The box is subject to your order -
not consigned to any one in Liverpool - so you may
have some one on the look-out for it; - the freight
paid in Boston. I hope it may have a quick passage.
Had I known of the delay, I think I should have decided
to send it by the steamer. I fear you won't see it before
the first of April. Let me know, when received. - Truly Yours
Sam'l May